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TO : Department of State

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BUREAU OF

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

ANALYSIS BRANCH

FROM : Amembassy, GUATEMALA

SUBJECT : INTERNAL SECURITY - Monthly Report of Incidents,

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/AR June 1972

REF

REVIEWED BY CAJ DATE OCT 1981

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

SUMMARY. News of the still unresolved killing of MLN Deputy Oliverio Castañeda Paiz dominated the internal security scene this month. Guerrillas may have initiated up to 20% of the month's incidents. The Army ended its Peten exercise and the Police increased their Guatemala City street coverage. There were 64 press-reported incidents of violence in June, a figure up 28% from the previous month but about average for the year. END SUMMARY

Castañeda Assassination: On June 25, MLN Deputy Oliverio Castañeda Paiz, recently elected Congressional First Vice President, was shot and killed at a local restaurant (see GUATEMALA 2845 and 2870). The particulars of the incident have not been confirmed despite many reports and rumors about town implicating

Government elements. Castañeda was the fourth Deputy of the present Congress (1970-1974) killed and the most prominent Guatemalan assassinated since the January 1971 death of leftist Deputy Dr. Adolfo Mijangos López

Guerrillas: The far Left may have initiated up to 20% of the month's incidents. Most of the press articles on possible guerrilla actions involved propaganda distribution in various departments, although there were five incidents of some note. Alleged subversives reportedly killed two soldiers and suffered one loss in an attack on a Jutiapa Army patrol. Reported terrorists

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also killed a Peten ex-military commissioner and a Cuban exile finquero in Izabal. Unidentified men made an unsuccessful machinegun pass at a National Policeman in the capital in an action reminiscent of PGT and FAR attacks during the last state of siege. Unidentified men also unsuccessfully ambushed a Chiquimula mayor whose predecessor [REDACTED] was killed by FAR guerrillas last January. [REDACTED] **B-1 EC**

COMMENT: Although we have no firm information that any of these press reports were in fact guerrilla affairs, they at least suggest to the public that the terrorist movement is still active. END COMMENT

Army: The Army withdrew the Guardia de Honor Brigade from the Peten on June 20 or 21, thus ending a three-month operation which [REDACTED] believes seriously disabled the guerrilla movement in that area. Plans call for a similar operation to be staged beginning July in the northern regions of Quiché and Alta Verapaz departments where guerrillas, in part due to the Peten exercise, have stepped up activities. **B-1 EC**

COMMENT: [REDACTED] **B-1 EC**

[REDACTED] The press in June reported seven kidnappings and assassinations and a Q100,000 sawmill fire in the Peten. In any event, the significance of the Peten exercise may lie less with its successes than with its demonstration, for the first time, of the Army's capability to sustain some 1000 men in extended field operations. END COMMENT **WES**

Other Actions Involving Security Forces: Elements of the security forces were involved in four incidents of note during the month besides the Castañeda shooting, but information was scarce. After a spectacular shootout and chase in the capital, police shot and killed Carlos Humberto Fuentes, whom they charged with the murder of two policemen several days earlier. [REDACTED]

Conflicting press accounts asserted that the Puerto Barrios immigration inspector, a close friend of Deputy Oliverio Castañeda, was killed by a member of the Presidential guard in a shootout stemming from an argument over who had shot Castañeda. Police arrested a detective who was involved in the case of a kidnapped agricultural student who was subsequently released. [REDACTED] **B-1 EC**

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[REDACTED] Finally, Christian Democratic labor official (CNT) Jose Vicente Merida Mendoza was kidnapped by unknown assailants.

Ministry of Government Actions: Minister of Government Jorge Arenales Catalan announced the arrival of 20 new patrol cars, obtained in the United States, and referred to a police sub-station building program in the capital. Dismissals of policemen for misconduct since mid-1970 reached a total of 800, occasioning La Nación editorial applauding the action, but adding that attention must be given to other problems such as their replacements' qualifications and attempts by certain high officials to use the newly acquired cars for their own purposes.

COMMENT: The new cars, if they are used for general patrolling purposes, and the new sub-stations, will significantly increase the police's surveillance capability in the capital. END COMMENT

Other Actions: Unknown assailants kidnapped local FIAT manager Armando Amado, then released him after a ransom was paid.

COMMENT: We have no information whether the crime was committed by elements of the Right or Left or by criminals. END COMMENT

Statistics: The June press carried 64 incidents of a probable political significance, a figure up 28% from last month's statistics, but near the 1972 January-June average (65). In all, there were 31 killings and 10 kidnappings including those of six small landowners, four reported guerrillas, three peasants, two soldiers, a labor official, a finquero, and Deputy Castañeda. The Eastern Region led geographic areas for the second straight month, perhaps reflecting both a heating up of guerrilla-Government activities as well as reported local political feuding. By attribution, guerrillas appeared involved in 12 (20%) of the month's incidents, Government elements in four (6%), and the remaining 48 (74%) were unattributable.

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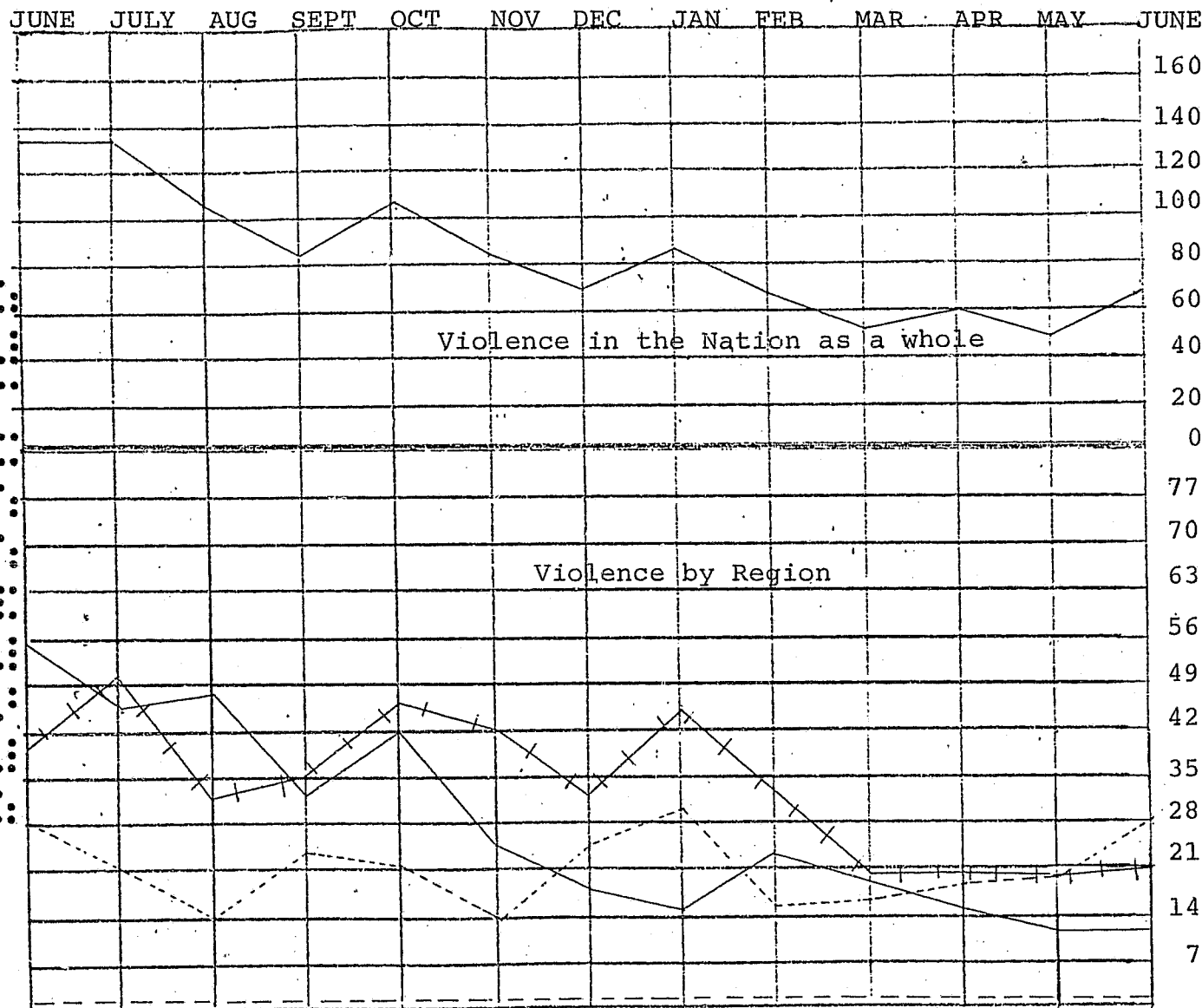
Enclosure: Monthly Frequency of Political Incidents by Region.

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MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - JUNE 1971 - JUNE 1972

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Total - 64

For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths all of which appear to be politically motivated.

- Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala
- South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa
- Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zacapa, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten
- Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola